

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

In response to the examiner's objection to informalities on page 6, replace the last paragraph on page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph to correct the spelling of siderophores and through.

-- The present invention demonstrates the ability of heme compounds, siderophores, polysaccharides and peptides to bind to pathogenic microorganisms and their proteinaceous toxins; taxonomic identification of a microorganism is attained through analysis of the number and kind of ligands to which it binds. The development of this method was done to overcome the aforementioned limitations of antibody-based technologies. The concept of the present invention resides in a method for the taxonomic identification of microorganisms in which microbes are captured through the binding of microbial receptors to specific ligands. A microorganism-containing sample is contacted by the ligand, with the ligand being either --